

Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) Definition for the European Union

The following is the most current information that we have regarding the definition of SRMs for the European Union. **NOTE: Specific countries, such as France, may have different requirements.**

Specified Risk Materials include:

- the skull excluding the mandible and including the brain and eyes, the vertebral column excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the lumbar and thoracic vertebrae and the wings of the sacrum, but including dorsal root ganglia, and the spinal cord of bovine animals aged over 12 months, and the tonsils, the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum and the mesentery of bovine animals of all ages;
- the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils and the spinal cord of ovine and caprine animals aged over 12 months or which have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum, and the spleen and ileum of ovine and caprine animals of all ages;
- Mechanically recovered meat produced after 03/31/01 from the bones of cows, sheep, or goats;
- Animals that were slaughtered by means of gas injection into the cranial cavity or killed by the same method or slaughtered by laceration after stunning of central nervous system by means of elongated rod-shaped instrument introduced into the cranial cavity.**

**After consulting with FSIS in D.C. Veterinary Services has determined that the captive bolt is used in most plants. There are 2 types; one using a cartridge similar to a bullet to drive the bolt into the brain and the other using air (pneumatic captive bolt) to drive the bolt into the brain (air is not injected into the cranial cavity). Both of these methods are acceptable and do not fall under the banned methods described above.